

STATE MAJOR DONOR and INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE COMMITTEES

Questions and Answers

Q: Must a committee file the odd-year report due on April 30 if the only contribution made between January 1 and March 31 is a contribution of \$3,000 to a state senator to pay debt from her 2006 election?

A: No. The committee must make contributions totaling \$10,000 or more to state officeholders to trigger this statement.

Q: Must a committee file the odd-year report if the committee's only contributions are to a political party committee?

A: No.

Q: Must a committee file the odd-year report if the committee has made contributions of \$10,000 or more to a ballot measure committee controlled by an elected state officer?

A: Yes. All contributions to state officeholders, their controlled committees, and to committees primarily formed to support or oppose elected state officeholders are counted toward the \$10,000 threshold. This includes contributions to legal defense committees, state officeholder committees, and local committees controlled by elected state officeholders.

Q: Must a committee file the odd-year report if the committee made a contribution of \$5,000 to one state officeholder and a contribution of \$6,000 to another state officeholder during the first quarter of 2007?

A: Yes. The report is triggered if \$10,000 or more is contributed during the applicable period.

Q: Must a state major donor that contributes to a local candidate or ballot measure committee file pre-election statements in connection with the local election?

A: No. State major donor/independent expenditure committees do not file pre-election reports regardless of their activity at the local level.

Q: If an individual or business entity is notified that a candidate has transferred a contribution made during a prior year to the candidate's future election committee, is the transferred amount counted for purposes of qualifying as a major donor during 2007, and is the transfer required to be reported by a major donor?

A: No. However, for purposes of the contribution limits, the amount transferred must be aggregated with other contributions made to the candidate's future election committee.

Q: Last year, a major donor contributed to candidates running in a city election. This year, the major donor is contributing to state candidates. Where are the major donor statements filed this year?

A: A major donor committee terminates at the end of each calendar year. A major donor making contributions to state candidates files with the Secretary of State, City and County of San Francisco, County of Los Angeles, and the committee's county of domicile, regardless of where it filed reports in a prior year.

Q: If a major donor/independent expenditure committee filed a statement by July 31 covering the first six months of the year and makes no other contributions or independent expenditures during the second six months of the year, must it file a semi-annual statement by January 31?

A: No.